

Workshop Summary: System strength access standards and the System strength mitigation requirement (SSMR) for connecting inverter-based resources (IBR) Workshop 20 August 2026

- The workshop focused on the system strength access standards and the SSMR for connecting IBR. The discussion covered issues experienced since the 2021 framework was introduced. This included issues with assessing the system strength impact of large inverter-based loads (IBL) raised as part of the [Improving the NEM access standards- package 2](#) rule change process. The workshop also canvassed potential reforms to improve efficiency, certainty, and operational practicality of the SSMR.
- The aim of the workshop was to develop a shared view of the key issues and priority areas for further investigation by the AEMC through the [Security framework enhancements](#) rule change package.
- In the workshop the project team made it clear that:
 - the [Security framework enhancements](#) rule change package, provides an opportunity to consider the core issues raised in [AEMO's Security framework enhancements](#) rule change request and the [AEC & CEC's Clarity and transparency of security frameworks](#) rule change request, as well as additional issues identified during the consultation process.
 - this workshop was one of three workshops, each focussed on a discrete area where the project team needed more information from stakeholders to inform policy thinking.
 - they continue to consider all issues raised in the rule change requests and through consultation with the aim that any reforms work as a holistic package, with solutions proportional to the issues.

Key discussion topics:

- **Assessing system strength impact:** Workshop attendees discussed the challenges in measuring or modelling an applicant's system strength impact. Attendees noted that the concept of available fault level (AFL) and the use of low short circuit ratio (SCR) withstand are imperfect proxies for determining system strength impacts and may lead to inefficient investment decisions and system outcomes. Attendees did not express specific views on alternative ways of assessing system strength impacts.
- **Assessing system strength impact specifically for large IBL:** Linked to issue above, workshop attendees discussed the specific challenges of assessing the system strength impact of large IBLs. There was a level of consensus that current proxies are not fit for purpose given large IBL interact with the power system differently than generators and integrated resource providers. Attendees suggested that these differences could be explored in more detail to inform project team thinking on potential reforms.
- **Flexibility and timing of system strength mitigation decisions:** Workshop attendees discussed the need for greater flexibility in the timing and irrevocability of SSMR nominations, with consensus that current requirements force decisions too early and may lead to inefficient outcomes. Attendees acknowledged that any changes to the timing of a decision should take into account the need for network service providers to have a level of planning certainty.



- **Remediation location - in front or behind the connection point:** Workshop attendees discussed the operational, technical, and commercial implications of allowing system strength remediation in front of the connection point, with general support for the principle but concerns about complexity, operational dependencies, and the need for clear frameworks.
- **System strength unit price and pricing signals:** Workshop attendees discussed concerns about the system strength unit price (SSUP), including the risks of price volatility, the desire for longer-term certainty, the potential for inefficient investment signals due to price variations across nodes, and the implications of capping or revising prices.
- **Distribution Network System Strength Provision:** Workshop attendees raise issues with how the system strength framework applies in practice at the distribution level. The project team acknowledge this and noted these will be explored in separate conversations and potentially separate processes.

Next Steps:

- The AEMC will continue developing its draft determination and rule, drawing on workshop input and may follow up with stakeholders for more information where relevant.